

Kennedy, Cooper and Hadley Huff; and Lani McNatt. In addition, James is survived by sisters Fran Ryals, Sissy Frady Hamlin, and brothers Buster McNatt and Bill McNatt. Finally, James leaves behind a large host of family and special friends throughout Texas and beyond.

TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEN ETTLEMAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ben Ettleman, owner and Chief Executive Officer of Davis Industries and to congratulate him on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Ettleman moved Davis Industries to the Lorton area in 1970, and, under his leadership, Davis Industries continues to be an involved and active community partner. When asked what advice he would give to a person entering business, he replied: "You must establish good relationships with your employees, your vendors, suppliers and manufacturers—but you must never forget to develop a good relationship with your community. That's vital!" Mr. Ettleman's life has been true to this philosophy; his robust support for area non-profits has been invaluable to the Lorton and greater Fairfax County communities.

Countless local and national programs and charities have benefited from Mr. Ettleman's leadership and direction. He allows his metal crushing site to be used in training the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in the "Jaws of Life" program. He also helped found the "Police Unity Tour" to honor fallen officers. In response to the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Mr. Ettleman donated \$25,000 to help provide care for children who were burned as a result of the tragedy. He has provided critical leadership and financial support to local high school all-night graduation parties, renovations of public parks, food drives, holiday celebrations at local shelters, educational scholarships, little league teams, art programs, and even spay-and-neuter programs. The Lorton Community Action Center, Boys & Girls Club, Jewish National Fund, Georgetown University Parkinson's Research Center, Fairfax County Police and Fire and Rescue Departments, United Community Ministries, South County Little League, and the Lorton Arts Foundation are just a few of the many organizations that have been able to provide assistance, education, and public safety services to thousands of residents thanks to the leadership and generosity of Ben Ettleman.

Mr. Ettleman recently celebrated his 90th birthday on August 11, 2011, and in recognition of his many contributions and accomplishments, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed the day as Ben Ettleman/Davis Industries Day in Fairfax County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in congratulating Mr. Ettleman on this prestigious recognition and wishing him a very happy birthday. I also want to thank him for his selfless contributions, which have benefited so many in our community. I hope that

his record of leadership will serve as a model of community service to future generations.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FARM DUST REGULATION PREVENTION ACT AND THE SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present last Thursday, I would have voted for the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act, H.R. 1633, as well as the Synthetic Drug Control Act, H.R. 1254.

H.R. 1633 would prevent the EPA from issuing any new rule over the next year to regulate coarse particulate matter, or "nuisance dust." While there is no such regulation currently pending, the concerns of my constituency with respect to the possibility that such a rule could be used to prevent coal mining or may interfere with farming or construction activities prompt my support of this bill.

H.R. 1254 would expand the list of Schedule I narcotics under the Controlled Substances Act to include cannabimimetic agents, the chemicals that are commonly known as synthetic drugs. The bill would prohibit the sale, distribution, or use of those chemicals without a permit issued by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Synthetic drugs, sometimes known by their street names as K2, Spice, and bath salts, imitate the hallucinogenic and stimulant effects of illegal drugs. Synthetic drugs can affect the brain in a manner that is similar to Schedule I drugs and are sold to consumers as harmless alternatives to marijuana, cocaine, or methamphetamines. There are numerous instances where the use of these drugs has resulted in agitation, anxiety, seizures, tremors, hallucinations, paranoia, and death.

Drug abuse is a serious health problem in southern West Virginia, one that threatens our communities, our homes, and our children. Too often, there is a misconception that these imitation drugs are not as dangerous as the Schedule I narcotics they seek to simulate. That's a gross distortion that this legislation seeks to correct. I believe we must be unrelenting in getting these designer drugs off the streets and out of the hands of our children. Passing this legislation will help us to send a clear moral message that these synthetic drugs carry with them deadly consequences—not just for the users, but for their families and communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE PAKIDIS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize George Pakidis for his years of service in the fight against drunk driving.

Each year thousands of people are injured or killed by drunk drivers. The numbers of accidents and fatalities skyrocket during holiday

seasons, especially Independence Day and New Year's Eve. To help prevent these senseless tragedies, local business leaders worked with law enforcement and government agencies to develop programs that would keep intoxicated drivers off of our roads. George Pakidis is one of the leaders in this effort.

For 14 years, George has served on the Board of Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award winning public-private coalition that seeks to prevent drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington metropolitan area through innovative education programs and advocacy. As Vice President of Red Top Cab, a regional taxi service based in Northern Virginia, George recognized an opportunity to decrease the number of instances of drunk driving by spearheading a free cab ride service known as SoberRide, which functions as part of the WRAP program. In the 12 years that George has been its Chairman, SoberRide has grown to include nine participating taxi companies and has kept more than 52,000 drunk drivers off of our roads. His innovative approach to this problem has prevented countless accidents and saved thousands of lives.

George will soon be retiring from Red Top Cab as well as from his positions with WRAP and SoberRide. His leadership and foresight will be greatly missed. During his tenure the number of accidents has declined significantly, and the regional alcohol-related traffic death rate is consistently lower than the national average.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking George Pakidis for his immeasurable service to our community and for his efforts to eradicate drunk driving. Let us wish George continued success in his retirement.

HONORING OFFICER DERIEK WAYNE CROUSE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Officer Deriek Wayne Crouse, a loving father and husband and dedicated law enforcement officer. Officer Crouse was killed in the line of duty on Thursday, December 8, 2011.

My deepest sympathies are with the family of Officer Crouse, the Virginia Tech Police Department, and the entire Hokie Nation. A 4-year veteran of the Virginia Tech Police Department, Officer Crouse was devoted to serving and protecting the students at Virginia Tech. This tragic event is a stark reminder of the many dangers law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis.

He joined the Virginia Tech Police Department on October 27, 2007, and served in the patrol division. Officer Crouse received his law enforcement certification on February 12, 2008, from the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy. He was trained as a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer, General Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Defensive Tactics instructor and most recently completed training for Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response and Mechanical and Ballistic Instructor. Since February 2011, Officer Crouse was a member of

the Virginia Tech Police Emergency Response Team. In 2008, he also received an award for his commitment to the department's Driving Under the Influence efforts.

Before joining the Virginia Tech Police Department, Officer Crouse worked at the New River Valley Jail and the Montgomery County Sheriffs Department. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army.

Officer Crouse, formerly of Galax, resided in Christiansburg, VA. He is survived by his wife, Tina Akers Crouse; son, Dustin Crouse; stepchildren, Logan and Hayden Schack, and Tyler and Peyton Robinette; parents, Tony Crouse and Bonita Arnold; and brothers, Darris Upchurch and Kevin Crouse.

I am honored to pay tribute to this great man. Officer Crouse will be long remembered throughout the Virginia Tech and law enforcement communities. My continued prayers are with his family as they grieve this tragic loss. Southwest Virginia has truly lost one of its finest.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KING'S PARK AND THE 4TH ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Kings Park Community, and the 4th Annual Potluck Dinner. The quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Kings Park is a testament to the strong community spirit that has existed for half a century.

King's Park is a community of 1100 homes located in central Fairfax County, in the heart of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. Although this is a very large community, it maintains the feel of a true neighborhood or small town. Within the Kings Park boundaries, there are two elementary schools, a large public park, and a community swimming pool. The residents are well served by the local civic association; King's Park Civic Association (KPCA). KPCA publishes The Gazette news letter, helps to ensure the safety of the residents through its Neighborhood Watch and Block Captain programs, and sponsors community events such as the Annual Yard Sale, 4th of July Parade and Picnic, Children's Holiday Party, Senior's Lunch, and Community Potluck Dinner. In addition, KPCA oversees several citizen committees which address residents' concerns, provide assistance, and facilitate communication with the county on local governmental issues.

Fifty years ago, in 1960, the total population of Fairfax County was 261,417; in 2010 the population had more than quadrupled to 1,081,726. Despite this phenomenal growth, King's Park has retained its unique identity thanks to the efforts of the volunteers and community activists. The success of the King's Park Civic Association can be attributable to its ability to provide tangible benefits to its residents, and to promote a spirit of collaboration and inclusion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of King's Park, and the 4th Annual potluck dinner organized by the King's Park Civic Association. I

also thank the residents and members of the Kings Park Civic Association for their efforts to ensure that Kings Park remains a wonderful place to call home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 914, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL LAFAYETTE VILLAGE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Arbor Day 2011 and to recognize the Lafayette Village Community's annual neighborhood cleanup and tree planting.

Founded by J. Sterling Morton, the first Arbor Day was held in Nebraska April 10, 1872. Arbor Day has since grown to be celebrated in more than 30 countries around the world. Arbor Day recognizes and celebrates the value and beauty of trees in our communities, and it is observed by planting a new tree.

Lafayette Village is a community of 313 homes in Fairfax County, Virginia. This is its fourth annual Arbor/Earth Day ceremony, and tree planting is a longstanding tradition for Lafayette Village. In conjunction with the annual tree planting, Lafayette Village conducts a community cleanup as well. Children are encouraged to participate, which helps to instill the values of community service and teamwork.

Environmental stewardship leads to beautiful communities such as Lafayette Village. Hundreds of trees have been planted over the years as an affirmation of their commitment to this stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude to the residents of Lafayette Village. Their efforts prove that beautifying a neighborhood requires only a generous amount of time and community spirit.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300-132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,054,018,277,569.01. We've added \$10,252,613,102,274.73 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our

nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 LIFECIRCLE ALLIANCES KUDOS FOR CAREGIVERS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 2011 LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Awards. LifeCircle Alliances, a non-profit organization based in Fairfax County, Virginia, is a leader in promoting and enabling independent living for older and adults with developmental, intellectual, or physical disabilities, including our Wounded Warriors.

LifeCircle Alliances has created innovative public-private partnerships with its 45 members including businesses, individuals, educational facilities, philanthropic organizations and government agencies to showcase and raise money for creative and cost-effective long-term care solutions. The funds raised and the efforts of the LifeCircle partners help to create innovative long-term care initiatives, enhance existing programs, and address workforce, mobility and transportation issues. The goal of these efforts is independence for life; ensuring that our older adults and adults with disabilities are able to live independently and with dignity in their communities of choice.

The LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Award celebration recognizes the efforts of five outstanding caregivers, who provide dedicated care, day in and day out. The recipients of the 2011 Kudos Awards are:

Inas Eldarwish—For years, Inas and her husband Ayman provided care to their two disabled sons, Ahmed and Hazem. Sadly, Ahmed passed away several years ago. The grace with which Inas handled this tragic loss was remarkable. Through her mourning, she has remained a dedicated and selfless mom to Hazem supporting his interests and helping him reach his full potential.

The Belvoir Woods Healthcare Center Family Council at The Fairfax (BWHCC)—This council is comprised entirely of volunteer family caregivers of current or former BWHCC residents. Through their efforts, residents at Belvoir Woods enjoy guest speaker programs and quality of life resources such as dog therapy visits, loaner scooters, and wheelchairs. They also are able to keep in touch with out-of-area family and friends through the use of free Wi-Fi.

Linda Walthall and Family—Through considerable adversity Linda and Frank Walthall have provided exceptional care for the last 7 years to her elderly mother, who requires 24 hour supervision. It is this selfless devotion to family that warrants her recognition as an exceptional caregiver.

Colonel Christine Ingle (Rtd)—Col. Ingle has served as a volunteer mentor and caregiver to our Wounded Warriors at Fort Belvoir. She recently has started a program for Veterans who are interested in pursuing careers in the healthcare field after their discharge from the Warrior Transition Unit.